3

the third volume

orange

【オレンジ】

高野苺

TAKANO ICHIGO presents
ACTION COMICS
published by FUTABASHA

orange【オレンジ】

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3

the third volume

C O N T E N T S

orange 3

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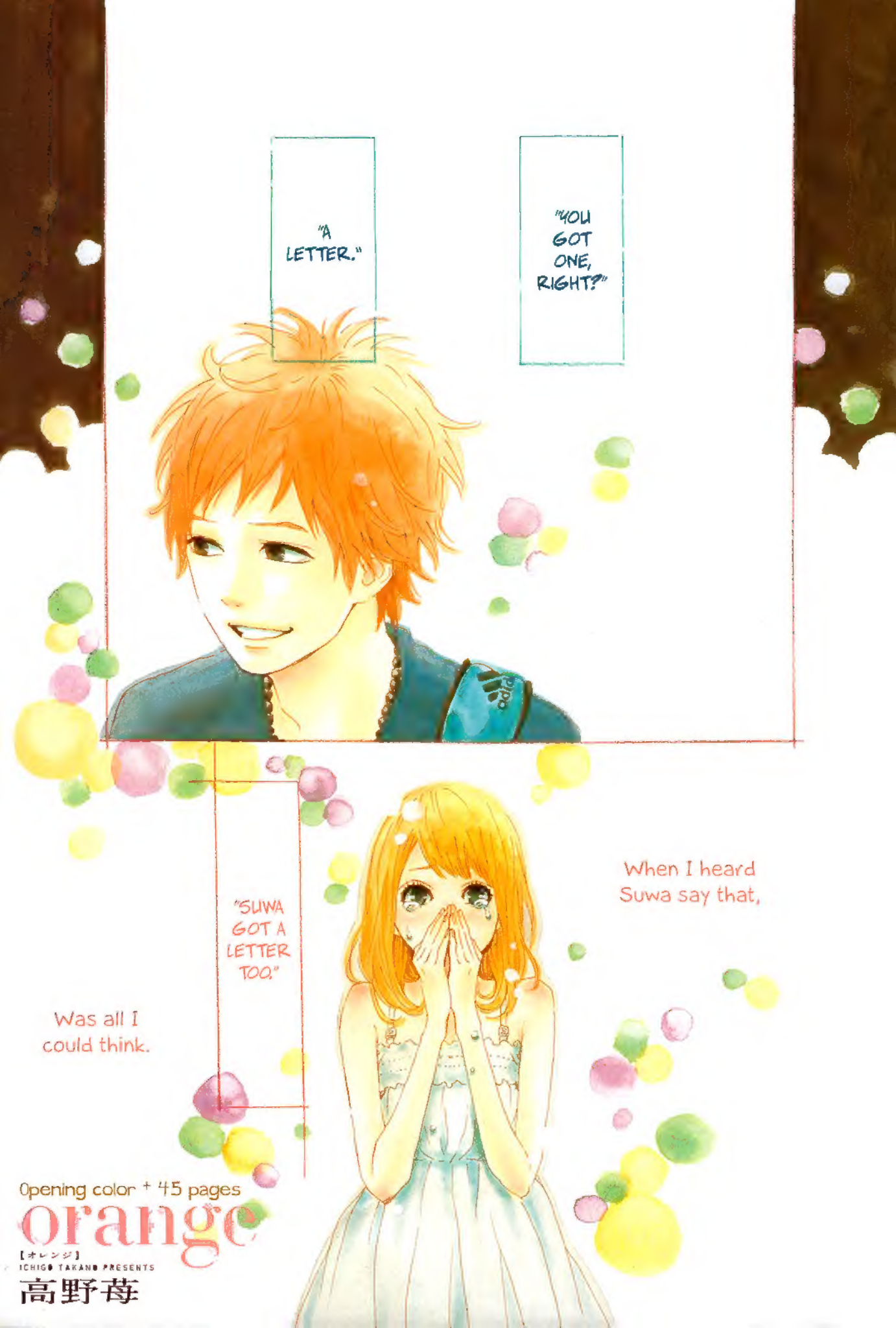
これまでのストーリー

高校二年生の春、菜穂の元に10年後の自分から1通の手紙が届いた。そこには、これから起こる未来の出来事と、自分と同じ「後悔」を繰り返さないために16歳の菜穂がとるべき行動が書かれていた。

初めはイタズラかと思ったが、次第に手紙を信じるようになり、手紙に書かれた内容を実行していく菜穂。勇気を出して文化祭の花火に翔を誘い2人きりで花火を見ることができた。が、そのすぐあとに実は手紙に書かれた「後悔」が、「高2で自殺した翔を救えなかった事」だと知り、さらには、目の前の翔が自分の母親の死に責任を感じて苦しんでいることも知ってしまい、どうしたらいいかわからなくなってしまう。

そんな時、須和が菜穂の家にやってきて……。

詳しくは「orange」1、2巻をご覧ください。



Opening color + 45 pages

orange

【オレンジ】

ICHIGO TAKANO PRESENTS

高野苺

orange
[オレンジ]
LETTER 9

WITH THE SHOCKING DEVELOPMENT,
THE STORY ACCELERATES.

NEWS!

The newest comic 「orange」 Vol. 2
Out Nov. 22 (Thurs)

Pay attention to each pages' present ♪

Even with that,
I have a scene
that I can
never forget.

Opening Color +
45P

With you,
or without
you
there...

ICHIGO TAKANO PRESENTS 高野苺

Orange 9

The days you were there and my future.

【オレンジ】

LETTER

YEAH.

YOU GOT YOURS ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY?

YOU CAN READ IT.

AH. IN THE SAME ENVELOPE.

REALLY?

THIS

IS THE LETTER THAT I GOT.

Suwa Hiroto

Mr. Suwa Hiroto

How are you, my 16 year old self?

I'm writing you this letter from the future.

Actually, I have a very important favor to ask of you.

I want you to erase the regret I am carrying.

Not just for me, but so that you don't follow the same path that led me to it.

BUT THAT DAY,

I DIDN'T READ THE LETTER 'TIL I GOT HOME, AND IT STILL HAPPENED.

"REGRET..."

"MAKE SURE I GET KAKERU TO JOIN THE SOCCER CLUB," THAT SORT OF THING.

LIKE "NOT INVITING KAKERU HOME WITH US," OR

WAS DUE TO SUWA'S LETTER.

THE REASON KAKERU JOINED THE SOCCER CLUB

BUT,

Mine is way longer...

YEAH.

IS THIS ALL OF IT?

HE SAID HE WANTS ME TO SAVE KAKERU.

"There is only one 'regret.' The regret that we didn't save Kakeru."

I guess everything he's done up 'til now has been for Kakeru...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, NAHO. IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.

"Regret."

The future me and the future Suwa are probably saying the same thing.

...OKAY.

WE WILL DEFINITELY SAVE HIM.

WE'LL GRANT IT TOGETHER.

rustle

THIS IS WHAT HE ASKED FOR.

September 14th. This is Kakeru's birthday.

We didn't know 'til long afterwards 'cause Kakeru didn't tell us anything, so nobody knew about it. Thus, we said we would celebrate the next year, and asked what he wanted.
But in the end, we never celebrated his 18th birthday.
So before that day, ask him when his birthday is and what he wants.

After that, I

SUWA,

WHERE'S THE REST?

k him when his birthday
wants. After that, I

Huh? Where's the rest...

I THINK.

DON'T WORRY, IT WASN'T IMPORTANT ANYWAY...

Ah-ha-ha

YOU *THINK?!*

OH.

SORRY. LEFT IT AT HOME.

The fact that Suwa also got a letter

makes me happy and a little relieved.

Kakeru's birthday..

This wasn't in my letter, but...

KAKERU, WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?

Suwa is so strong to actually tell me.

won't you forget?

ISN'T THAT STILL TWO MONTHS AWAY?

MINE'S NOVEMBER 27, I THOUGHT I WOULD THROW IT OUT THERE.

SINCE

WHAT? THAT WAS RANDOM.

Ho-

How lucky!

Wh-

What?!

?

ISN'T THAT NEXT WEEK?! DID YOU HEAR THAT. NAHO?!

SEPTEMBER 14?! THAT'S REALLY SOON. RIGHT?!

WHAT?!

MINE'S SEPTEMBER 14.

SERIOUSLY? AWESOME.

THEN I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

THEN LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

WE'LL BAKE A CAKE AND EVERYTHING!

My folks will.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?!

KAKERU~! ♪

GREAT. THAT WORKED WELL.

GRIN

GRIN

OH YEAH?!

...BUT I DO WANT SOMETHING.

EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT BEFORE.

I WANT TO SEE A GAME AT THE MATSUMOTO SOCCER STADIUM.

HUH? I DON'T REALLY WANT A PRESENT?

IT'S NOT A PRESENT OR ANYTHING.

WE'RE JUST ASKING.

*T/N: Literally means the "Matsumoto Elegance." They're an actual professional team based in Matsumoto, Nagano.

OKAY!! SOCCER TICKETS!!

YEAH, THAT!

THE MATSUMOTO YAMAGA*?!

WHAT WAS THE TEAM NAME AGAIN?

KAKERU. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

ANYTHING THAT YOU'VE WANTED?

Hehehe~!

Sounds like fun!

"SORRY GARY"?

ALRIGHT. MANGA.

THEN... I WANT TO READ THAT FUNNY MANGA YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

UH...

STUPID. IT'S NOT A PRESENT, YOU FOOL.

What do you mean, "How have you been?"

I DON'T REALLY WANT A PRESENT?

KAKERU,

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT...?

It's not a present,

stupid

Just one volume is fine

I HAVE PRACTICE. LATER.

IT'S NOT TIME YET.

WELL,

Suwa's not here

I DON'T NEED PRESENTS.

AZU, TAKAKO AND HAGITA ARE ALREADY GIVING ME SOMETHING.

YOU DON'T HAVE ONE LIKE SUWA'S?

NO... I DON'T.

YOU ALWAYS USE THAT BAG, RIGHT...?

HEY KAKERU...

MY MOM THREW IT AWAY SINCE I WASN'T GOING TO JOIN A CLUB.

I HAD ONE BEFORE...

BUT WHEN WE MOVED,

NO... I DON'T WANT SOMETHING EXPENSIVE.

I won't be able to pay you back

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS ONE.

GOT IT!

I SEE.

.....

LATER THEN!

It's totally your present.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT OR ANYTHING!

I'll give him a bag for his birthday!

I'M GIVING KAKERU

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU DON'T?

A BAG FOR HIS BIRTHDAY.

I'M... GIVING HIM ONE.

AND STOP SEEING HIM.

JUST GIVE UP

AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU'RE MY KOUHAI, SO JUST STOP.

*Kouhai = Junior

NOTHING.

PLEASE GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.

YEAH, RIGHT.

IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU DON'T LIKE MY FRIEND.

KAKERU BROKE UP WITH YOU!

YOU SHOULD GIVE UP!!

JUNIORS.

TALK ABOUT BRATTY.

HAAA?! WHO'S THE BRAT!

.....

BUT ANYWAY... THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

WE ONLY WENT OUT ONCE!

HOW CAN I BE SATISFIED WITH THAT?!

I'M HER FRIEND, SO IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH ME.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO HER, SO GET OUT OF THE WAY.

THOUGH YOU WON'T SHUT UP.

IF YOU WANT TO GET HIM BACK,

HOW ABOUT FIXING YOUR PERSONALITY?

KAKERU IS SAYING THAT HE WOULD RATHER BE WITH NAHO THAN WITH YOU.

ME? A BAD PERSON?

HA?

BAN

!

I'M NOT A NICE PERSON EITHER.

THAT "THE 'SCHOOL MISS' IS BULLYING A JUNIOR?"

SO HOW 'BOUT I TELL EVERYONE

WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE ABOUT KAKERU.

...YOU CAN JUST...

STOP THAT...

.....

THEN DISAPPEAR.

DON'T WANT ME TO?

SWISH SWISH

nych

AND WE WIN!!

GIRLS ARE SCARY.

TELL ME IF SHE MESSES WITH YOU AGAIN.

I'll kill her.

THANKS TO TAKA!

I'M ALL RELAXED NOW!

WE JUST HAD THAT PILING UP.

YEAH, YEAH. THAT'S TOTALLY FINE!

SORRY... FOR GETTING YOU TWO INVOLVED...

THANKS...

?

KAKERU, STAY HERE.

?

NAHO, COME HERE.

AND WE SAID STUFF LIKE, "ISN'T THAT GOOD?"

THAT WE DIDN'T STOP KAKERU FROM GOING OUT WITH HER.

WE'RE SORRY

SORRY THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE SOONER...

NAHO...

YOU LIKE KAKERU, RIGHT?

.....

...YEAH...

YEAH...I'M SORRY. THANK YOU.

DON'T HIDE THINGS ANYMORE!

They actually noticed.

WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU HAVE TO TELL US THIS STUFF WITHOUT HIDING IT!

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.

NO! WAIT!

We'll help you~!

I...

WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR NAHO...

HA? THEN YOU WILL TOO?

WHAT? THAT'S HARSH.

NOPE.

A CONFESSION.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD GIVE HER?

ANYWAY, I HAVE NOTHING LEFT I WANT.

EVERYONE'S ALREADY ASKED ME.

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO TELL YOU.

NO.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?

KAKERU,

ALREADY DONE.

A SPORTS BAG FOR CLUB?

ALREADY DONE.

TICKETS TO A YAMAGA GAME?

YOU SAY THAT, BUT...

Let me think...

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING...

COME ON, MAN.

YEAH, IT'S OKAY.

...A BOUQUET? SERIOUSLY?

ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

GO WITH YOUR MOM.

TWO TICKETS TO GO SEE THE YAMAGA PLAY.

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY!

WHAT MANGA IS THAT?

Never heard of it

WANNA BORROW IT?

NAW, THANKS.

THE THIRD VOLUME IS HILARIOUS.

Read it

THE 5 VOLUME SET OF "SORRY GARY."

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

USE IT WHEN YOU JOIN THE SOCCER CLUB.

FROM ME... YOU WERE ALWAYS SAYING HOW IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A BAG LIKE SUWA'S.

SURE IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT KAKERU SAID IT WAS OKAY, SO...

WHAT? Seriously?

HURRY UP, SUWA.

YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO PLACE IT, RIGHT?

That bouquet

HERE!

!

SWISH

!?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

TAP

...WHAT...?

THEY'RE FROM KAKERU.

"ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS."

"YEAH, IT'S OKAY."

"...A BOUQUET? SERIOUSLY?"

"I'LL GET THEM,

AND THEN GIVE THEM TO NAHO."

"I'M KIDDING!"

he he

AREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE FOR YOU?!"

"HAA?

...IS WHAT KAKERU TOLD ME.

...BUT WHY... FOR ME?

COME ON, NOW.

"WHY?"

I ALREADY KNEW FROM THE START.

What the bouquet meant

I MEAN REALLY. KAKERU WAS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT NAHO.

SO THAT'S WHAT THE BOUQUET MEANT.

But did He give these..

To me...?

WHILE HE WAS HERE.

WE ARE SO SORRY THAT WE DIDN'T TRY TO HELP OUT MORE

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE PAINFUL FOR YOU.

IF WE HAD TOLD YOU HIS FEELINGS,

KAKERU LIKED YOU,

THE WHOLE TIME.

What?! Really?!

HAGITA! DON'T TELL THEM!

HEY, LISTEN TO THIS.

IT SEEMS THERE'S A GIRL KAKERU STARTED NOTICING.

I HEARD A LOT ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU FROM KAKERU.

ESPECIALLY ABOUT YOU, NAHO.

"THE PERSON KAKERU NOTICED..."

I always wondered who that was.

BUT, I GOT A BOUQUET FROM HIM.

AND I CAN NO LONGER ASK HIM ABOUT IT.

KAKERU'S NO LONGER HERE,

Kakeru...

If he were here, what would he say?

THAT THE OTHER ME CAN DO WHAT I WROTE.

I'M SURE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KAKERU

HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY!!

KAKERU!!

THANK YOU!

MANGA?! THANK YOU!

DON'T BE SURPRISED ABOUT YOUR PRESENT.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

Man!

SOCCER TICKETS? THANKS!

HERE'S A PRESENT FROM US!!

WHOA!! IT'S AWESOME!!

adidas

YEAH, BUT I REALLY WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

NAHO... I TOLD YOU NOT TO BUY EXPENSIVE STUFF...

It's huge!

SORRY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXPENSIVE...

BUT I LOVE IT.

I'LL TREASURE IT.

Thank God.

I'm happy too.

RIGHT.

THANKS!

FLOMP

!!

IT'S IN THE HALLWAY, HOLD ON.

?

THEN, SUWA? WHERE'S YOURS?

Hurry up

They're so calm

AHAHAHAHAHA

A BOUQUET?! ARE YOU HIS BOYFRIEND?!

WHAT THE HECK?!

SHUT UP! DON'T LAUGH!!

KAKERU SAID IT WAS OKAY!

.....

DON'T GIVE ME THAT FOR REAL, IDIOT!!

NO! I WAS KIDDING!

YOU DID?

NO RUNNING AWAY.

HERE!

PAT

September 14th.

It's Kakeru's birthday.

Make sure to

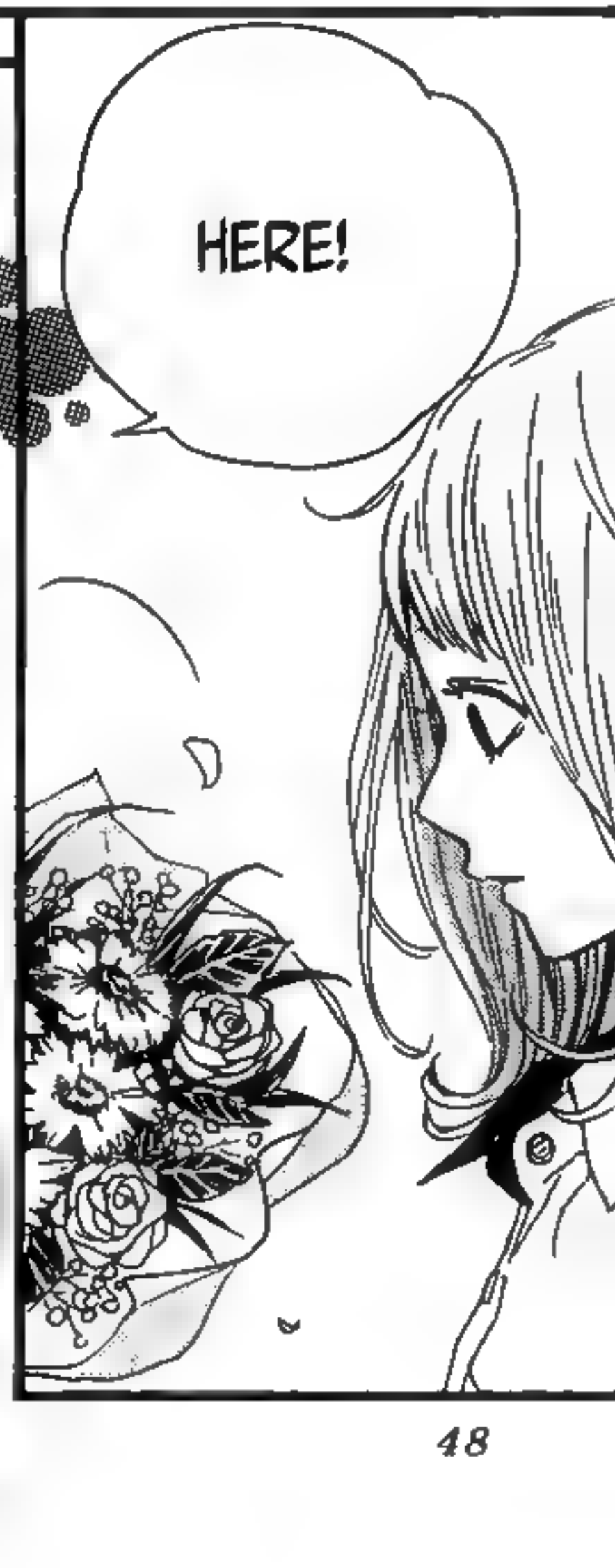
Actually ask him what

He wants for his birthday.

And I

Want you to give your present last.
I think he'll tell you he wants a bouquet.
Ask him why.

So, you have to give him a bouquet. You have to.



...BUT WHY...

TO ME...?

...WHAT...?

"WHY?!"

WHY...?

glare

'CAUSE I WANT TO!

retreat

GO AHEAD. DON'T MIND US!

There's no meaning

'CAUSE HE WANTS TO...?

...WHAT...

WHY ME...?

EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE STANDING RIGHT THERE.

SINCE IT WAS YOU, I SAID IT.

I TOLD YOU I WOULD CONFESS TO YOU

AT... THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL,

OUT OF YOU THREE.

I'M SORRY THAT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY BUY THEM MYSELF,

BUT

I WANT YOU

TO SEE MY FEELINGS.

Back then, I

Couldn't really support Kakeru and Naho together.

But after Kakeru died, Naho would just sit there and cry.

I always regretted not being able
to see the two of them get together.

So what I really want for you to do is watch over them as much as possible.

It'll probably be painful to watch the girl you like like that, but...

But you have soccer.
Please, make soccer the biggest love of your life.

So please see

The feelings Kakeru and Naho have for each other.

"I WANT YOU TO SEE THEM."

So that we can see

Naho and Kakeru smiling together ten years in the future.

I leave them to you.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 2 OF BETSUMA, WHICH COMES OUT JAN. 3RD IN JAPAN!

※NO ORANGE CHAPTER NEXT MONTH (DEC.)!
SEE YOU IN THE FEBRUARY (JAN.) ISSUE!

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Orange

Chapter 9: Letter 9

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表紙&巻頭カラー45P

高野苺

HOLDING A CHRISTMAS FAIR!!

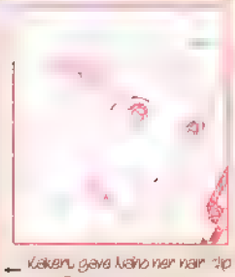
HOW ABOUT A WALK IN MATSUMOTO FOR CHRISTMAS?

IT WAS REALLY POPULAR LAST TIME, SO WE'LL GO DEEP INTO MATSUMOTO. LET'S GO WITH NAHO AND EVERYONE!

NAHO AND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE SPOT?!

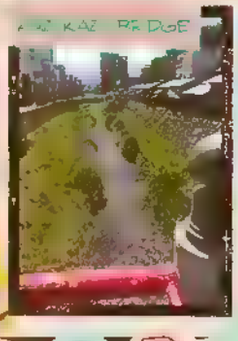
MAP 1

In 1872 (5th year of Meiji), this was Matsumoto's first park. You can see all of Matsumoto from the observation deck. The cherry blossoms are beautiful, too. It's perfect for flower viewing.

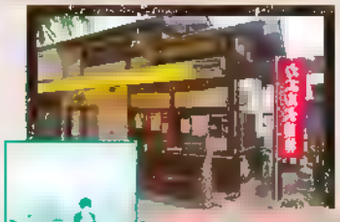


← Kaken gave Naho her hair clip at the top of this lookout point. Naho was really touched :)

↑ You can see 360 degrees at the lookout. In another direction, you can see the Japanese Alps.



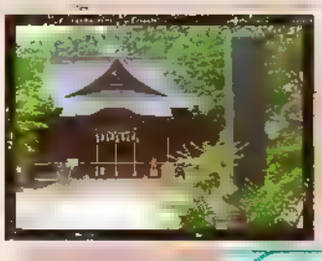
Take a break on the bridge that crosses the Metoba River. The views are impressive.



TAIYAKI KUJIRATO

The taiyaki shop debatured at the opening of chapter 3. The ones with red bean paste are delicious. They have other fillings as well.

taiyaki-ya.com

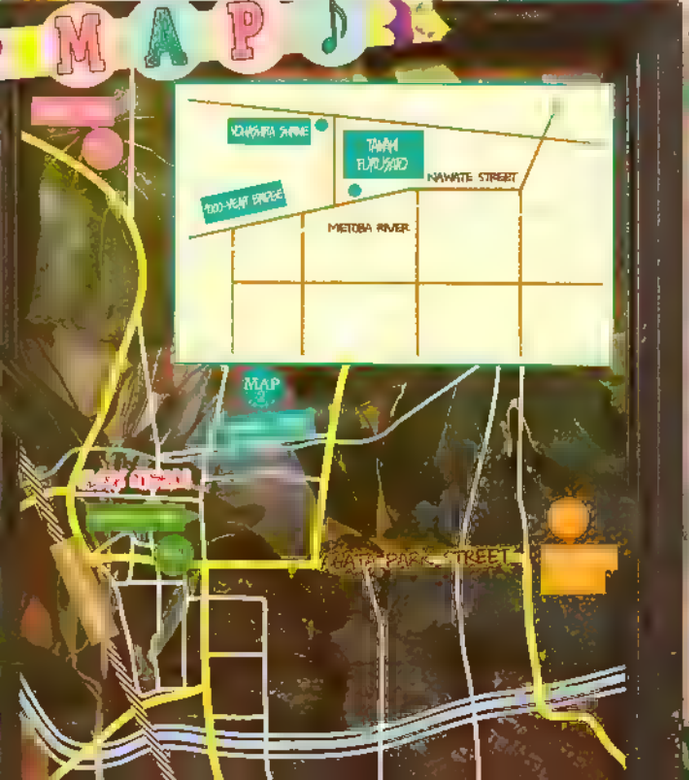


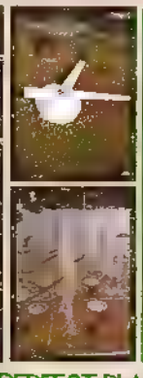
MAP 2 NAWATE STREET

A recreation of an Edo era shopping street along the Metoba River. An abundant amount of cute goods are here.

YOHAKIRO SHRINE

A shrine North of Nawate Street. Called, "The shrine that will grant your wishes" in chapter 7.



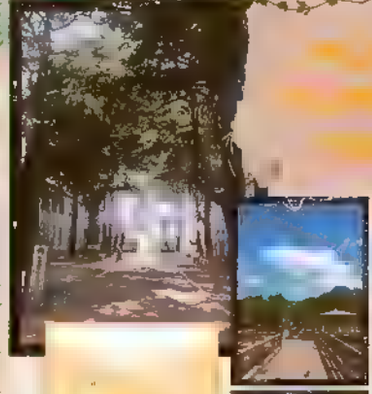


PERFECT PLACE TO WAIT.

FLOWER CLOCK PARK

MAP 4

In the heart of Matsumoto, surrounded by PARCO and restaurants, Kaken and Naho meet up here in Chapter 8.



The park at 2nd Street in Matsumoto. It preserves the buildings of a pre-war Matsumoto high school. This is where Kaken confided in Naho about his regrets regarding his Mom in chapter 7. It's a rich, green place to relax.

I HOPE YOU REALIZE...
...HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
I...

EPISODE 10

orange
【オレンジ】
LETTER 10

...SHARED HIS FEELINGS WITH ME.
KAKERU...

YOU DON'T...
...HAVE TO ANSWER!
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW I FELT...
AN ANSWER...
OKAY...

I FEEL...
HOT...
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT...
MY ANSWER IS OBVIOUS.
...THE SAME WAY ABOUT HIM.
MORNIN'!

MY PRESENT...
AH...
AH!
THANKS FOR USING THE BAG!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA ANSWER HIM?
EXACTLY THE SAME.
HUH?
??
HEY, GET OUTTA HERE!
AREN'T YOU GONNA ANSWER HIM?
SO?
I CAME TO HELP.
IF YOU'VE COME TO GET IN THE WAY, GO HOME!
PING PONG

IF I ANSWER HIM...
...MAYBE IT WOULD BOTHER HIM...
HA HA HA
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, NAHO!
AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
JUST TELL HIM EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!
EXACTLY? ? ?
PFFT
Huh?
Ew
NAHO...
JUST MAKE SURE...
...YOU DO ANSWER HIM.
CUT IT OUT.

NAHO, REALLY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
DON'T BULLY HER.
FAP
I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU TREAT ME LIKE YOU'VE ALWAYS TREATED ME.
WOW! TALK ABOUT PUTTING UP A FRONT...
SHUT UP, AZU.
I WONDER...
...WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, I'LL CARRY THIS.
LET'S GO, SUWA.
YEAH, YEAH.
PING PONG

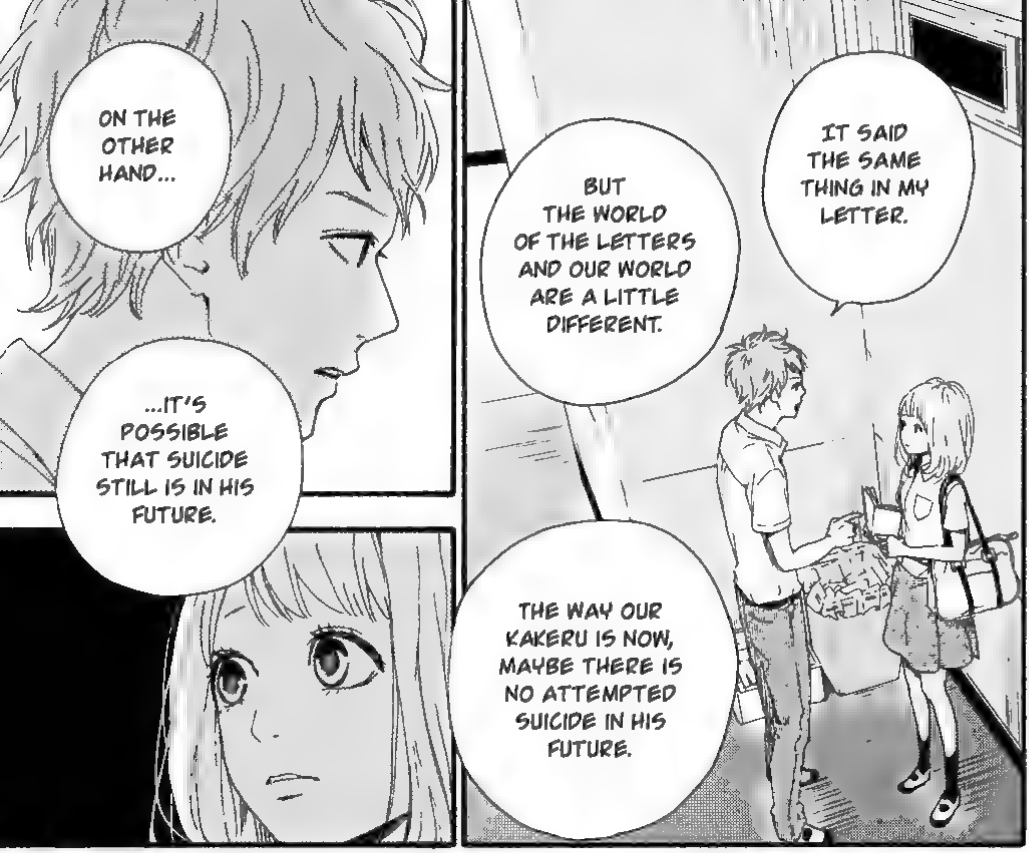
NAHO!
!
KAKERU SAID...
?
...THAT HAIRSTYLE IS CUTE!
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
HUH? YES, YOU DID. I HEARD YOU.
HAGITA-KUN! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

CHIRP ミーン CHIRP
CHIRP ミンミン
CHIRP ミーン
I WONDER WHAT KAKERU WOULD THINK...
...IF I DID TELL HIM HOW I FELT...
SUWA, LET'S GO TO THE CLUB.
SORRY.
YOU GO ON AHEAD. I'LL BE THERE SOON.
?
OKAY. THEN I'LL SEE YOU THERE.
YEP.

NAHO!
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?
HUH?
LISTEN...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S IN YOUR LETTER TOO, BUT HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING FOR THE 23RD?
YOU MEAN SEPTEMBER 23RD?
YEAH.
LET ME SEE...
SORRY 'BOUT THIS...
IT'S OKAY.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THERE IS SOMETHING.
September 23rd

SEPTEMBER 23RD

THIS IS WHAT I HEARD FROM KAKERU'S GRANDMOTHER AFTER HE DIED:
KAKERU ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ON THIS DAY.
SHE SAID HE HANGED HIMSELF WITH A TOWEL IN HIS BEDROOM AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL UNCONSCIOUS.
KAKERU WAS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR SEVERAL DAYS, STARTING ON THE 24TH. THE REASON WAS THAT HE WAS HOSPITALIZED.


ON THE OTHER HAND...
...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SUICIDE STILL IS IN HIS FUTURE.
BUT THE WORLD OF THE LETTERS AND OUR WORLD ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
IT SAID THE SAME THING IN MY LETTER.
THE WAY OUR KAKERU IS NOW, MAYBE THERE IS NO ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN HIS FUTURE.

IT'S OKAY. I'LL DO SOMETHING.
NAHO...
KAKERU...
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, AND FAST...
KAKERU...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

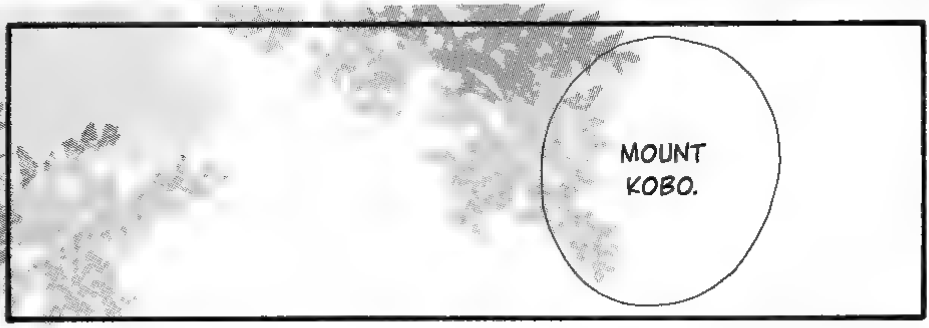
THE DAY BEFORE, KAKERU MET A FRIEND FROM HIS OLD SCHOOL.

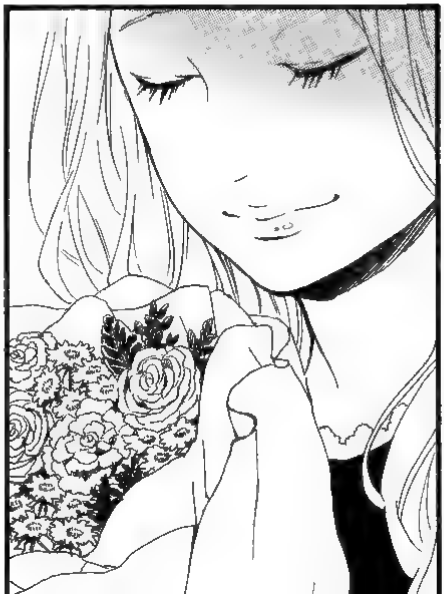
HE TOLD THE FRIEND ABOUT HIS MOTHER'S SUICIDE AND THAT HE WANTED TO DIE TOO, APPARENTLY.

BUT THE FRIEND THOUGHT HE WAS ONLY JOKING AND LAUGHED AT HIM.

I WANT YOU TWO TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT HIS FEELINGS.

NOT AT ALL. THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY...
...AND GIVING ME SUCH A PLEASANT AFTERNOON.
WELL, WE HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER STOP...
...SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.





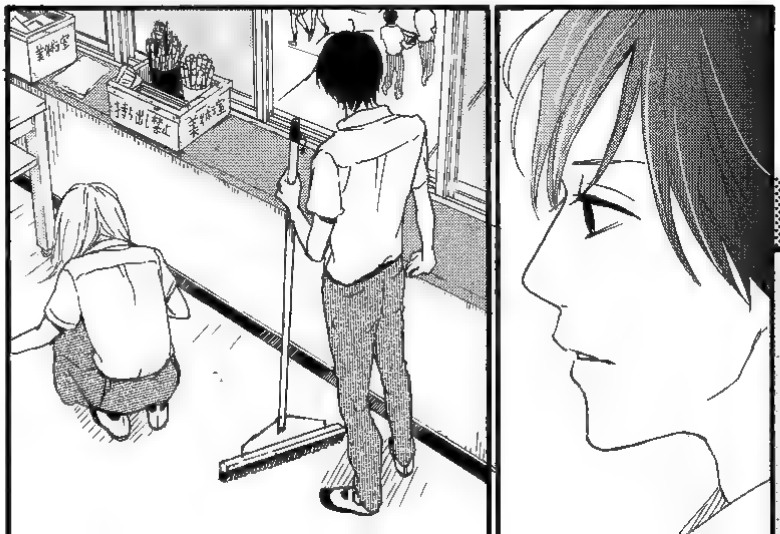
IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED.

THERE WAS A POINT WHEN I WAS ON THE VERGE OF TELLING KAKERU HOW I FELT ABOUT HIM.

YEAH...
AH!
IS THAT VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE?
YOU GONNA GIVE IT TO HIM RIGHT?
YEAH...
HUH...
IS A GUY THAT YOU LIKE?
OH
I SEE...

THAT'LL BE ALL FOR TODAY.
BYE, NAHO

DON'T FORGET TO GIVE YOUR CHOCOLATE TO THAT GUY.
I COULDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM.
JUST LIKE I WASN'T ABLE TO GIVE HIM THE LUNCH I'D MADE...
I KNEW THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY CHANCES I WAS GIVEN, I JUST WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT.
I COULDN'T DO IT...


...BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT KAKERU WOULD THINK OF ME.

WHOOSH...
? WHAT'S THE "WHOOSH" FOR?
OH...
I WAS THINKING THAT AFTER THIS, MAYBE I'LL JUMP OUT THAT WINDOW AND FLY AWAY...
...LIKE SUPER-MAN.
...

BUT YOU CAN'T FLY, KAKERU.
HA HA
YOU TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY, NAHO! I'M TALKING DAY-DREAMS!

IF I WERE SUPERMAN...
...MAYBE I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE MY MOTHER.

...IS ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD RIGHT NOW.
I'M KIDDING.
OH, YEAH.
KAKERU...
NO...
NEXT SATURDAY, I'M MEETING A FRIEND FROM TOKYO.
WHY NOT?
HUH?
DON'T!
...WHY NOT...?
ALTHOUGH IT'S JUST A GUY...
...NO!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THAT?
DON'T MEET HIM.

HUH? WHAT THE HELL? YOU TOO, SUWA?
HANG OUT WITH US INSTEAD.
WHAT THE...?
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO US?
ESPECIALLY NOW, WHEN YOU GOT SOMETHIN' WEIGHING ON YOUR MIND...

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
YOU HEARD FROM NAHO?
YEAH, SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S EXACTLY BECAUSE WE'RE CLOSE FRIENDS THAT YOU SHOULD TALK TO US!
I CONSIDER YOU GUYS CLOSE FRIENDS, SO WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, I WANNA LAUGH.
WELL, THERE'S NO WAY...
...I CAN TALK TO YOU GUYS ABOUT THAT.

WE DON'T WANNA LAUGH WHILE BEING IGNORANT ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOIN' THROUGH, KAKERU.
I'M POSITIVE THAT WE CAN HELP YOU.
IF THINGS ARE ROUGH, SAY SO!
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT...
...THAT YOU WANTED TO DIE?

YEAH...
...I HAVE.
EVERY SINGLE DAY.
WHY...
...DO YOU THINK THAT?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
BECAUSE I BROKE THE PROMISE I MADE TO MY MOTHER ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY.

"I KNEW THAT SHE REALLY NEEDED MY SUPPORT."
"I'M A TERRIBLE SON..."
...MY MOTHER DIED. IT'S MY FAULT.
BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS "A PAIN"...
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO COMFORT HIM THEN.
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE SAID ANYTHING MORE TO PUT HIS MIND AT EASE?
IF I'D BEEN ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING TO HIM THEN...
BUT WHAT SHOULD I HAVE SAID?

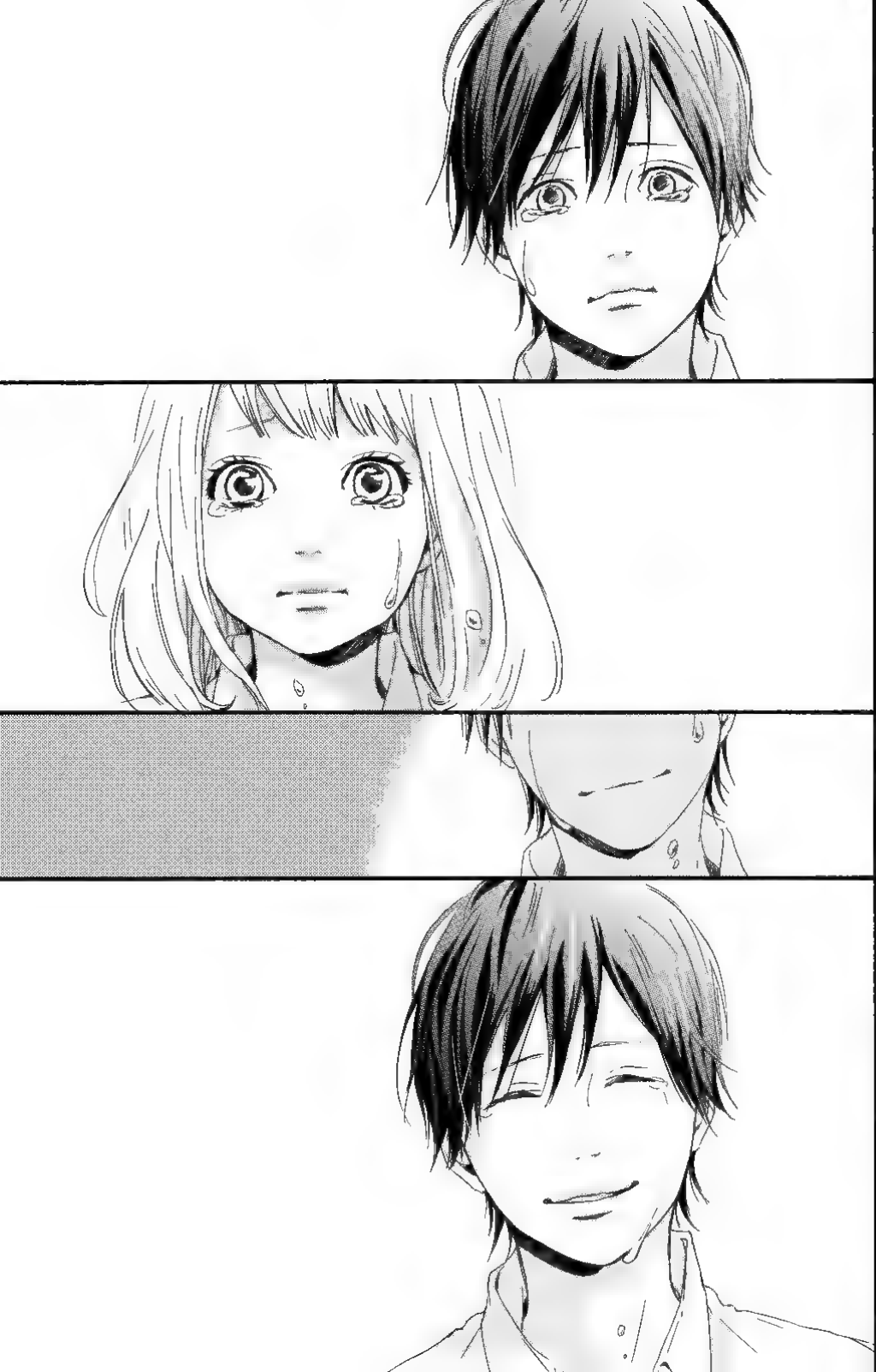
MY MOM HASSLES ME EVERY DAY.
I GET NAGGED TO STUDY, TO CLEAN MY ROOM...
"WHAT A PAIN" GOES THROUGH MY HEAD EVERY SINGLE DAY!
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL, KAKERU.
EVERYBODY THINKS STUFF LIKE THAT...
...IS "A PAIN."

I...
BUT...
...IT'S DIFFERENT!
STOP FEELING REGRET.
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

IT'S NOT ABOUT "WHAT WILL KAKERU THINK OF ME?"
I WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT HE'S NEEDED.
I JUST WANT HIM TO KNOW...
...HOW I FEEL.

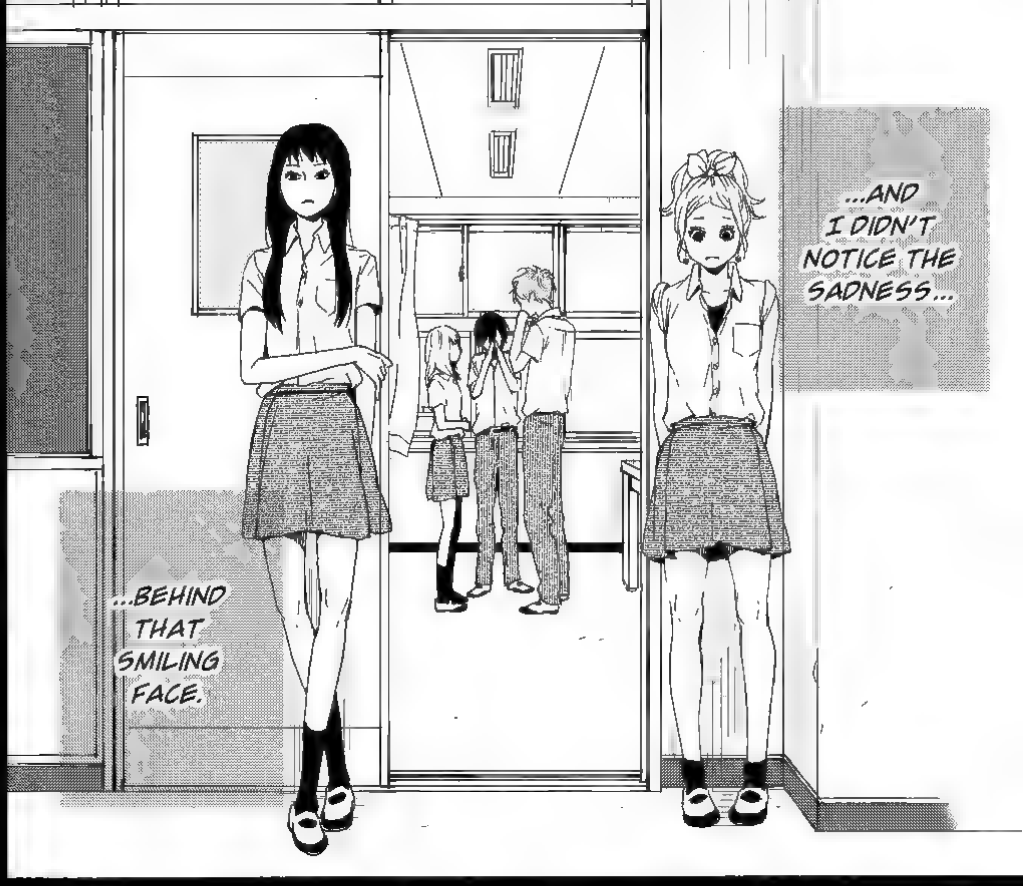
I DON'T...
...WANT TO LOSE YOU.
KAKERU...
DON'T DIE.
I FEEL...
...THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU.

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU...
...SO WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T GO AWAY!



I SAID...
...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO ANSWER ME.
THANK YOU.
SUWA, ARE YOU CRYING?
OF COURSE NOT!
I have hay fever!

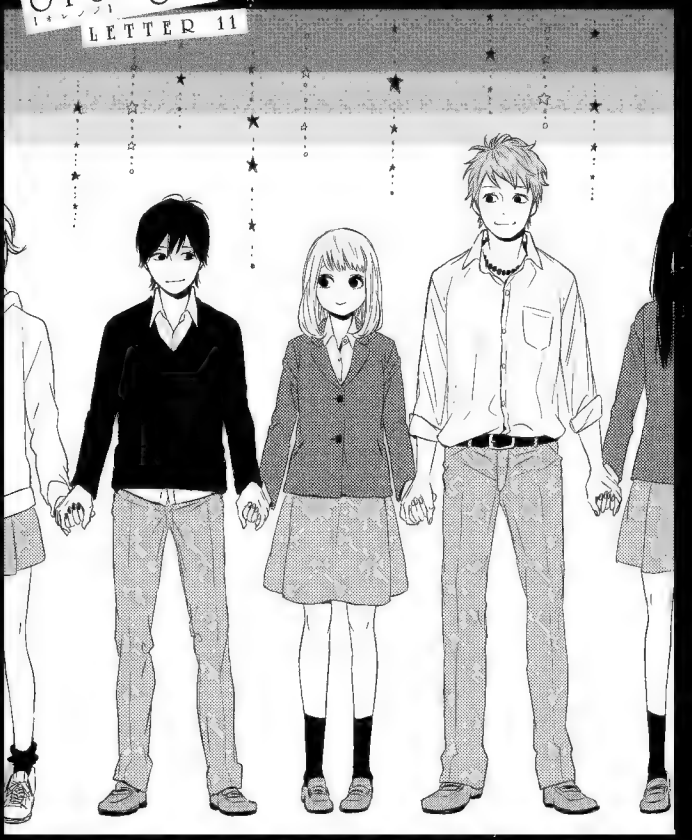
...IS ALWAYS SMILING.
KAKERU...
EVEN WHEN HE'S SAD...
...HE SMILES LIKE ALWAYS.
BUT WHAT DOES "ALWAYS" MEAN?
HE'S SMILED LIKE THAT SINCE I FIRST MET HIM...



...FOR REAL.

...I WANT TO SEE KAKERU SMILE...

SOMEDAY...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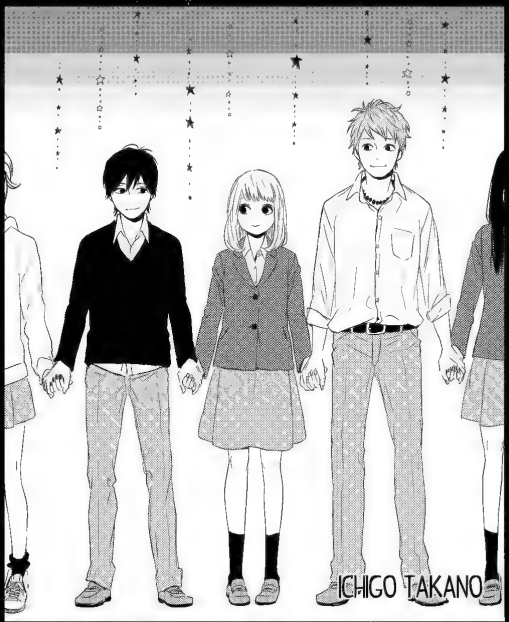
LETTER 11


ICHIGO TAKANO

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE UP TO NOW...
...EVEN IF IT'S LITTLE BY LITTLE...
...HAS LED TO A BRIGHT FUTURE, I HOPE.
CHFF
KAKERU!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PRACTICE OUT HERE? GET CHANGED!
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF HUFF
WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO, KAKERU?
YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW IT, HAGITA-KUN.
COME ON! I'LL KNOW IT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I CAN'T LOOK KAKERU IN THE FACE.

I FEEL SO...
...SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT YESTERDAY.
CHUSU
LET ME LISTEN TO IT A SEC.
WHY?
GLANCE
Huh?
WHY NOT? COME ON!
GIVE IT TO ME!
Ah!
That hurt!
THUMP

...
WANNA LISTEN?
HM.
?!
ALL THIS TIME...
...I'VE BEEN HESITATING OVER HOW TO SAY SOMETHING TO HIM.
OUR EYES MEET AT LAST.

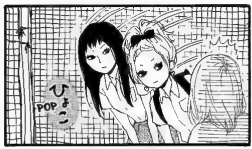
I BET...
...KAKERU NOTICED THAT, TOO.
OH, GOOD!
I SEE.
ON THE 22ND...
...I CANCELLED PLANS TO MEET MY TOKYO FRIEND.
HUH?
I MADE PLANS WITH SUWA INSTEAD.
IT'S MORE FUN HANGING OUT WITH HIM.

I'M SURE I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY THAT IF THE LETTER HADN'T COME.
"I LOVE YOU."

Ha ha ha!
PFFT
CUT THAT OUT!
LET ME LISTEN!

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE, THANKS TO THAT LETTER.
It's fun? Then that makes it all right... NOT!
Yeah, it's fun. Sorry!
Kakeru loves being mean to Nagita.

EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T EVEN...
...VOICE MY OPINIONS BEFORE...
...NOW I CAN EXPRESS MY FEELINGS.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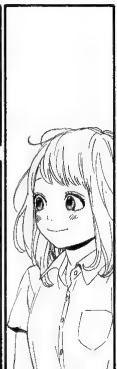


IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE HIDING FROM US?

...BUT YESTERDAY, I TOLD KAKERU HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM.
IT'S... IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS HIDING IT...
HUH?
HIDING?!
DO THEY MEAN WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?!
Did they hear from Kakeru or Suwa?
GRIN
BUT... WE DIDN'T SAY WE WERE DATING...
BOYFRIEND?
CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR FIRST BOYFRIEND!
NOTHING TO BE PROUD ABOUT! I WAS NERVOUS, AND MY VOICE WAS SHAKY...
THAT'S FANTASTIC, NAHO! I'M PROUD OF YOU!!

IS THERE...
SO?
ANYTHING ELSE?
...ANYTHING ELSE YOU'RE KEEPING FROM US?

ANYTHING ELSE I'M HIDING...?
ANYTHING ELSE?
KAKERU!!

NARUSE!
ARE YOU OKAY?!

Infirmary
YOU SCARED ME!!
I MEAN, KAKERU, YOU FAINTED!
SORRY, GUYS.
IT'S FINE...
...BUT ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
I JUST GOT A LITTLE DIZZY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A WEAKLING!
I AM NOT!

ARE YOU...
...EATING RIGHT THESE DAYS?
YEAH, THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS YOU...
ha ha ha!
...
SUWA IS A GLUTTON!
#A #A #A
BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR GIRLFRIEND TO LAUGH AT YOU, DO YOU?
...
MY GIRLFRIEND?
NAHO, SILLY!
NAHO!

SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND.
WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT GOING OUT YET, DID WE?
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IF TWO PEOPLE LOVE EACH OTHER, IT ONLY MAKES SENSE TO DATE!
EH? TAKAMIYA, ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH KAKEHI, TOO?
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE'S SAYING, SO SHUT UP.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER TO ME.
I MEAN, IF NAHO AND I WERE GOING OUT, I'D PROBABLY HURT HER SOMEHOW.
SO GIVEN THAT, IF WE CAN BE HAPPY AND HAVE A GOOD TIME WITHOUT DATING, I'D JUST AS SOON GO WITH THAT.

YEAH.
...LOVE YOU.
BECAUSE I REALLY DO...
WELL, DUH.
...A LOT MORE THAN YOU DID WITH UEDA-SEMPAI.
THEN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT NAHO'S FEELINGS...
I THINK I KNOW HOW KAKERU FEELS.
NARUSE-KUN, YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
IF KAKERU AND I START DATING, THE FUTURE MAY CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY.
IT MAY EVEN THROW WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE LETTER OFF COURSE SO MUCH, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE KAKERU.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SCARED OF.

?
SORRY FOR WHAT?

SO I WAS SLIGHTLY RELIEVED BY KAKERU'S ANSWER.
SORRY...
...NAHO.

...TO GIVE YOU TWO A SUPPORTIVE PUSH SO THINGS TURN OUT WELL FOR YOU.
IT SAID IN MY LETTER...

OH, THAT.
NO, I'M FINE.

FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL KAKERU TO GO OUT WITH YOU.

I WONDER IF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE LETTER FROM MY FUTURE SELF ARE CORRECT.
BUT I COULDN'T DO IT.

...ABOUT KAKERU COLLAPSING TODAY?
DID YOUR LETTER SAY ANYTHING...
...
UH UH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN THAT'S A NEW FUTURE THAT WAS BORN...
...ONLY IN OUR WORLD.

HUH?
...IT STARTED WHEN HE JOINED THE SOCCER CLUB.
I THINK...
BUT HE WANTS TO BE CHOSEN TO PLAY, SO EVERY DAY, HE WORKS TWICE AS HARD AS ANYONE ELSE.
HE'S STILL A NEWBIE IN THE CLUB, SO HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO PLAY IN ANY MATCHES YET.
...IT MAKES ME WONDER...
...IF I WAS RIGHT TO INVITE HIM TO JOIN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HE'S PROBABLY WORN HIMSELF OUT THAT WAY.
HE HASN'T BEEN LOOKING TOO WELL LATELY, EITHER.
IF THE CLUB IS BECOMING A BURDEN ON KAKERU...

I CAN TELL KAKERU LOVES BEING PART OF THE CLUB.
OF COURSE YOU WERE.
JUST BECAUSE HIS FAINTING WASN'T IN THE LETTER DOESN'T MEAN IT'S THE CLUB'S FAULT.
RIGHT NOW, I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY SUWA'S AFRAID...
...TO MAKE A CHOICE.
YEAH...
BUT EVEN IF THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE LETTER, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN...
...AND THAT'S MAKIN' ME A LITTLE NERVOUS.

...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE ANY MORE REGRETS.

...MADE ME THINK I HAD TO DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE LETTER...

NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE KAKERU ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY...

"I WONDER IF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE LETTER FROM MY FUTURE SELF ARE CORRECT."

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE...

...BUT I KNOW IT'S NOT MISTAKEN.

THAT LETTER HAS HELPED ME OUT TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

TWEEET

OCTOBER 1ST
DURING PE, EVERYONE'S TIMES ARE RECORDED IN THE 100-METER DASH.
KAKERU IS CHOSEN TO RUN THE RELAY AT THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.

SIX BOYS AND GIRLS FROM OUR CLASS ARE GOING TO DO IT.
KAKERU IS THE FASTEST RUNNER, SO HE'S GOING TO BE THE ANCHOR.

BUT ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL, DURING THE RELAY, KAKERU IS RUNNING IN THE LEAD WHEN HE SUDDENLY TWISTS HIS ANKLE AND FALLS. AS A RESULT, THE CLASS COMES IN LAST.

KAKERU FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS.

HE WAS ANXIOUS ABOUT BEING CHOSEN FOR THE EVENT. HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER THAT MUCH PRESSURE.

IT SEEMS HE PUT HIMSELF IN THE SHOES OF AZU, WHO STRUCK OUT, LOSING THE BASEBALL GAME AT THE SPRING BALL GAME TOURNAMENT.

FOR KAKERU'S SAKE, DO SOMETHING SO HE'S NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE RELAY TEAM.

KAKERU!
HOW ABOUT I RUN IN YOUR PLACE?
HUH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S OKAY TO DROP OUT!
IF IT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE...
WANT ME TO TALK TO THE TEACHER FOR YOU?
...
NO, IT'S FINE.
I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT?

SO I WANNA GIVE BEING ANCHOR A TRY.
IT MAKES ME THINK I CAN BE USEFUL SOMETIMES!
...
I'M HAPPY TO BE PICKED.
YOU REALLY WANNA DO IT, FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART?
WAIT... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WHAT THE HECK?
KAKERU'S FEELINGS HAVE CHANGED...
IT'S BECAUSE I CHANGED THE FUTURE AT THE BALL GAME TOURNAMENT.
KAKERU SAYS HE WANTS TO DO IT, SO JUST LET HIM DO IT.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN...
IT'S JUST THAT YOU COLLAPSED THE OTHER DAY, KAKERU.

NO... IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T WANT HIM TO DO IT...
UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A REASON FOR NOT WANTING HIM TO DO IT?

...I SHOULDN'T DO IT AFTER ALL.
MAYBE...

WELL, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...
...BUT KAKERU WANTS TO DO IT.
I KNOW, BUT...
HEY, YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE TO CLASS!
SHUT UP, HAGITA!

...I WOULD RUIN IT FOR EVERYONE.
IF I FELL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RELAY...

YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, KAKERU?
THANK YOU.
Y-YEAH, SURE.
SUWA, WILL YOU RUN FOR ME?
...HE MUST'VE BEEN HAPPY TO BE CHOSEN.
AFTER NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY IN MATCHES FOR THE CLUB...
WELL, WE DIDN'T EXPECT KAKERU TO SAY HE WANTED TO DO IT.
...I WAS WRONG TO DO THAT.
I THINK...

BUT I THINK I FELL A LITTLE SHORT OF THAT WISH THIS TIME.

THE FUTURE IS CHANGING NOW...

...SO THERE MAY BE THINGS REQUESTED OF ME IN THE LETTER THAT I CAN'T FULFILL.

SUWA!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THAT TIME COMES?
COME HERE A SECOND.
?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE HIDING FROM US?
??
WHERE'S NAHO?
WHAT?

ABOUT KAKERU!
SENSEI!
WHAT IS IT, NARUSE?
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE RELAY AT THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.

SENSEI!
...YEAH.
WHAT?
YOU DON'T WANNA BE THE ANCHOR?
TAKA-CHAN?
WHAT IS IT, CHINO?

I WANT TO BE IN THE RELAY.
YOU WANT TO DO IT?
WHAT IS THIS?
SENSEI, ME TOO!
I WANNA RUN IN THE RELAY!
SWISH

THE THING IS...
...I'VE ALREADY CHOSEN THE RUNNERS.
REPRESENTING THE CLASS IS KIND OF A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY, SO...
...IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO LET ONE OF THEM TO RUN IN MY PLACE.
UM...
ACTUALLY, WE TALKED ABOUT IT, AND I MADE A DECISION.
I FEEL...
...THE SAME WAY.
WHAT IS THIS SUDDEN URGE TO BE IN THE RELAY?
WELL, IT'S THE FIRST ATHLETIC FESTIVAL SINCE KAKERU STARTED HERE...
...SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN TO DO IT TOGETHER.

WE WANT TO RUN WITH KAKERU.

I'LL TAKE HIS PLACE.
WHAT?! IT'S NO FAIR IF ONLY THE GIRLS GET TO SWITCH!
I WANT SOMEBODY TO TAKE MY PLACE!
Me, too!
NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE STARTED?!

EVERYTHING I DO...

...DOESN'T HAVE TO BASED ON FOLLOWING THAT LETTER.

EVEN THE FUTURE ME DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE.

THERE'S NO NEED TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THAT KIND OF DOUBT.

RATTLE
I...
I...
MY VOICE...

...IS SHAKING.
I WANT TO RUN...
...WITH KAKERU.
HEY.
HAGITA.
...

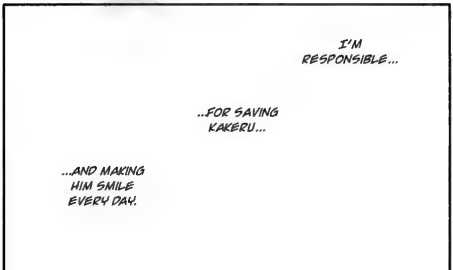
HAGITA...
...
HA-GI-TA!

ガタン
GATAN
ギー
GEEE

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FAST OR ANYTHING, BUT...
CAN I BE IN IT, TOO?

KAKERU IS THE ANCHOR...
...SO WE'LL PASS THE BATON OFF TO EACH OTHER UNTIL IT GETS TO HIM.

TODAY...
...I CHOSE A PATH THAT DIFFERED FROM THE LETTER.
A DIFFERENT PATH IS FINE...
...AS LONG AS WE MAKE SURE IT LEADS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.


I'M RESPONSIBLE...
...FOR SAVING KAKERU...
...AND MAKING HIM SMILE EVERY DAY.

orange
LETTER 12

ICHIGO TAKANO

THE RELAY RUNNERS FOR THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL...
...ARE NARUSE, SUWA, HAGITA, CHINO, MURASAKA, AND TAKAMIYA.
HAGITA, CAN YOU ACTUALLY RUN?
OF COURSE NOT...
...YES, YOU CAN! WHEN YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, YOU PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS!
FORGET IT. I QUIT.
YOU GUYS REALLY ARE CLOSE!
THANKS, SUWA! DO YOUR BEST!
TWANG!
...OUCH...
THANK YOU.

I'M OVERJOYED.
KAKERU SMILED...
NOW I'M...
...LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RELAY EVEN MORE.
NAHO-CHAN! THANK YOU FOR TAKING MY PLACE IN THE RELAY!
ARE YOU SURE? YOU DON'T MIND IF I DO IT?
OF COURSE I DON'T!
I HEARD YOU'D BE WILLING TO TAKE MY PLACE.
EH?
I FIGURED YOU'D VOLUNTEER TOO, NAHO.

WHEN SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO SWITCH WITH SOMEONE...
...WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP FOR IT, SO WE VOLUNTEERED YOU!
EH?!
GOOD LUCK, NAHO-CHAN!
DO YOUR BEST!
YOU CAN DO IT!
WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU!
HAVE A GOOD TIME RUNNING TOGETHER!
DON'T BE NERVOUS, NARUSE!

I'M GLAD IT WORKED OUT THIS WAY.

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT...
THIS TIME, WE MADE A DIFFERENT CHOICE THAN WHAT THE LETTERS SUGGESTED...
...BUT IF THE RESULT LEADS TO SAVING KAKERU, THEN IT'S ALL TO THE GOOD.
I'M HAPPY...
...IT TURNED OUT THIS WAY, TOO.
THANK YOU, SUWA.
YEAH.
IT'S THE OTHERS WHO PULLED THIS OFF
NAH...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

OCTOBER 7TH
THE LETTER'S ENTRIES... THE NEXT ONE IS THE DAY OF THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.
SUWA...
FOR NOW, I'M GOING TO STOP RELYING ON THE LETTER.
OKAY.
WELL, I THINK I'M GONNA HIT THE SACK.
RUSTLE
INSTEAD, I'M GOING TO TRY THINKING ABOUT WHAT WOULD MAKE KAKERU MOST HAPPY...
...AND THEN ACT ON THAT.
YEAH.
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

...BUT I'LL KEEP IT IN THE DRAWER FOR THE TIME BEING.
I'M NOT A LOVE LETTER!
I ALWAYS CARRIED THE LETTER AROUND WITH ME...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU RUN WEIRD...
SHUT UP!
I TOLD YOU I COULDN'T DO IT!
THAT WAS SLOW, HAGITA!
OKAY, FINISH LINE.
I THINK YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE SLOWEST RUNNER IN OUR YEAR.
UGH!
I'M A DISGRACE, AND I KNOW IT.
I'M THE SLOWEST KID IN CLASS.

THE TEACHER SAID THAT EVEN IF WE COME IN LAST PLACE, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THE POINT IS FOR KAKERU TO ENJOY THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.
AND KAKERU WOULD ENJOY COMING IN LAST, WOULD HE?
I WANT TO RUN WITH YOU TOO, HAGITA-KUN.
IF THE SIX OF US GET TO RUN TOGETHER...
...I'LL BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT PLACE WE'RE IN.
RUNNING IN THE RELAY WILL MAKE YOU POPULAR, HAGITA-KUN.
YEESH. WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. FINE, I'LL DO IT.
...
LET'S GO BACK IN.
WHAT'S NEXT AGAIN?
MATH.

HEY.
HM?
ON THE WAY HOME TODAY...
...I WANT YOU TO HANG OUT WITH ME FOR A BIT.
...
UM, OKAY...
NAHO...
HOW ABOUT WALKING ME TO THE DOOR?
YEAH, SURE.
SUWA, I'LL SEE YOU AT THE CLUB.
OKAY. TELL 'EM I GOTTA CLEAN UP HERE BEFORE I GO.

I'M HAPPY.
WE'RE ALONE.
AH...
YOU WALK SLOWLY, DON'T YOU, NAHO?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS A PACE BEHIND WHOEVER YOU'RE WALKING WITH.
O-OH, REALLY?
ALTHOUGH THAT IS JUST LIKE YOU...

STRANGE...
...BUT I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WAS A COMPLIMENT OR ANYTHING...
KAKERU IS NOTICING EVEN THE SMALLEST DETAILS ABOUT ME.
THE WIND'S GOTTEN COOLER, HUH?
YEAH!

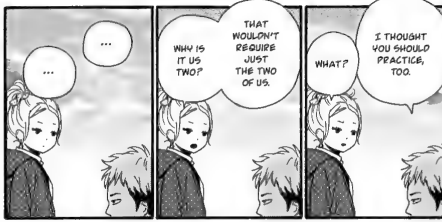
GRAB
TWIST
!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
S...
SORRY!

I'M SORRY.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I GRABBED RIGHT ONTO KAKERU.
EVEN WITH OTHER PEOPLE AROUND...
HOW EMBARRASSING.

...
WHAT...?
...
NOTHING.
NOTHING, REALLY.

WELL, I'M OFF TO THE CLUB.
BYE BYE.
?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT...?
WAS KAKERU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I WONDER IF THE LETTER HAD SOMETHING TO SAY...
...ABOUT THIS.
...
THAT'S RIGHT. I LEFT IT AT THE HOUSE.
I DECIDED NOT TO RELY ON IT... YET NOW, WITHOUT THINKING...
Sigh...

I'LL TRY TO DO SOMETHING ON MY OWN.
HUFF
HUFF
WHOMP
YOU DON'T NEED TO PRACTICE ANY MORE.
HOW CAN I RUN EVEN FASTER?
HEY! I GOT FASTER, RIGHT?
THAT WAS FASTER THAN BEFORE, WASN'T IT?
WOW! YOU'RE GETTING FASTER AND FASTER!
SERIOUSLY? AWESOME!
IN FACT, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANTED ME OUT HERE WITH YOU.
THE OTHERS ARE FASTER, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE THEM COACHING YOU.


...
...
WHY IS IT US TWO?
THAT WOULDN'T REQUIRE JUST THE TWO OF US.
WHAT?
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD PRACTICE, TOO.

THERE'S SOMETHING...
...I WANNA TELL YOU.

I'LL TRY ASKING KAKERU TOMORROW.
HEY.
WANT OUT WITH ME WHILE I PRACTICE TOMORROW, TOO.
WHAT?!

KAKERU...
CAN I WALK YOU TO THE DOOR?
SURE...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ASK ME, NAHO.
U... YEAH.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
I SEE...
ME, TOO.

I'LL TRY ASKING HIM...
"HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?"

WHAT'S...
...WRONG...
...KAKERU?
NOTHING.
SORRY.
WELL...
BYE BYE. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
KAKERU...
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M SORRY... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...

SUWA...
DID YOUR LETTER SAY ANYTHING...
...ABOUT KAKERU TODAY?
SUWA...
NOPE.
NOTHING FOR TODAY.
...
I SEE...
BUT I THOUGHT...
...YOU WEREN'T GONNA RELY ON THE LETTER FOR NOW.
TRUE...
BUT, I'M WORRIED ABOUT KAKERU...

...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
RELY ON US, TOO.
DON'T PUT ALL YOUR CHIPS ON THE LETTER.
YOU'VE GOT THESE GUYS RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
EVERY-ONE...
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHY NOT TRY TALKING WITH THEM?
YOU'RE TROUBLED...
...ABOUT KAKERU?
WELL... UH...
YEAH?
KAKERU'S BEEN ACTING...
...A LITTLE WEIRD.

HE HOLDS OUT HIS HAND AND DOESN'T SAY A WORD.
LIKE THIS.
AND WHAT I ASK HIM WHAT IT'S FOR, HE WON'T ANSWER.
ACTING WEIRD, YOU SAY?
HE MAY HAVE SOMETHING WEIGHING ON HIS MIND.
HA HA HA!
...
HE HAD A SAD EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...
..SO I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.
I'M PRETTY SURE...
..KAKERU JUST WANTED TO HOLD HANDS WITH YOU.
?

HOLD HANDS WITH ME?!
OF COURSE HE'D LOOK SAD!
HOLD HANDS WITH THE POOR GUY!
...
EH?!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
YEAH, SAME.
I WOULD'VE SAID RIGHT OUT, "HEY, LET'S HOLD HANDS."
NOT VERY MANLY OF KAKERU, THOUGH.
IS THAT WHAT IT WAS?
IT MEANT HE WANTED TO HOLD HANDS...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, THERE'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO HIDE FROM US.
THAT'S RIGHT. TALK TO US MORE!
YOU BOTH OVERTHINK THINGS ALONE.
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU AND KAKERU HAVE IN COMMON.

NOTHING TO HIDE...
WHY NOT TELL THEM EVERYTHING?
"ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM US?"
...IF I TOLD THEM ALL ABOUT THE LETTER?
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
ABOUT KAKERU!
I'M NOT ESPECIALLY HIDING IT...
...BUT I FIGURED YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME, EVEN IF I TOLD YOU.
WE'LL BELIEVE YOU, SO TELL US!

PUT SIMPLY...
...I GOT A LETTER...
...FROM MYSELF TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
SO...
WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT?
I CAN'T READ THAT EXPRESSION.
...FROM MY FUTURE SELF.
I GOT A LETTER...

I WONDER IF THEY'LL BE SHOCKED.
IT SAID, "I WANT YOU TO SAVE KAKERU."
MAYBE THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME.
MAYBE THEY'LL LAUGH AT ME.
THAT'S WHY I WANT ALL OF YOU TO HELP ME...
SURE.
OF COURSE WE WILL.
YOU FINALLY ASKED US FOR HELP.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND TALK.
THERE'S SOMETHING WE WANNA SHOW YOU.
THEY GET IT...!

HOW...?
Takuto Chino
Azusa Mizutsuka

HAGITA!
HAGITA, TOO. YESTERDAY AT THE PARK, HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO TELL ME...
YESTERDAY? AT THE PARK?
SORRY FOR KEEPING QUIET ABOUT IT.
WE GOT LETTERS FROM THE FUTURE, TOO.

HE SAID HE GOT ONE, TOO.
ALL OF US...
Saku Hagita
WHAT, WERE YOU TWO ON A DATE?
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD GO ON A DATE WITH THIS DUMBBELL?!
JUST GET THE LETTER OUT!
...GOT A LETTER.
ALL OF US HAVE THE SAME GOAL.
LET'S SAVE KAKERU...

...TOGETHER!

...WHO WON'T HAVE CHANGED, EVEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW.

FRIENDS...

I HAVE FRIENDS.

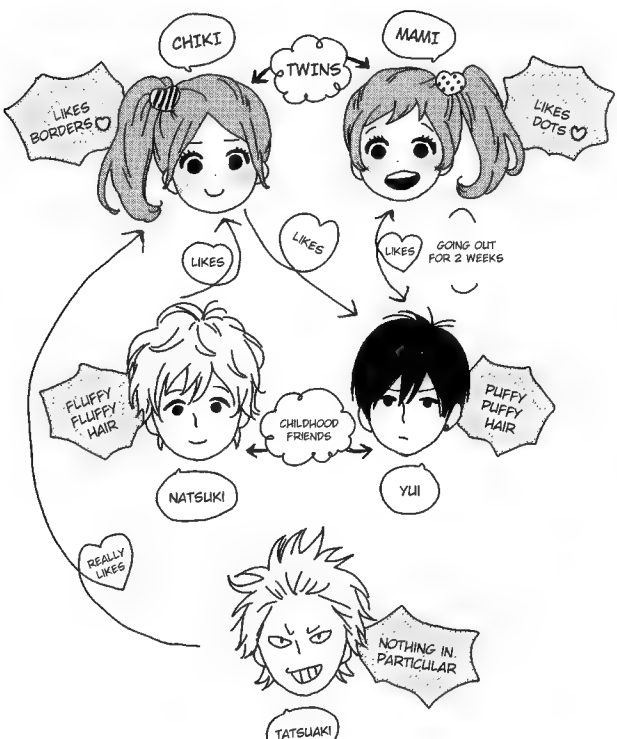
...TOGETHER.

LET'S SAVE KAKERU...

EXTRA MANGA

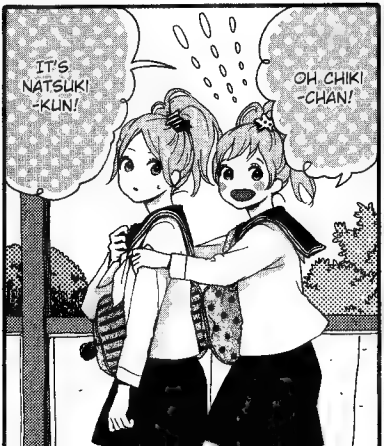
HARUIRO ASTRONAUT

IMMEDIATE CHARACTER INTRODUCTION



HARUIRO ASTRONAUT
3

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE,
I WAS CONFESSED TO BY A BOY
"I... LIKE YOU, CHIKI-CHAN"
MY DAILY LIFE HAS CHANGED
SINCE THAT DAY


IT'S NATSUKI -KUN!
OH, CHIKI -CHAN!

GOOD WORK TODAY! YOU LOOKED VERY COOL TODAY
NATSUKI -KUN!

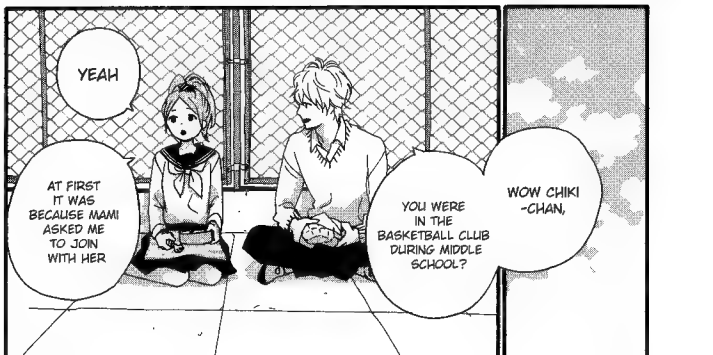
WHOA
CHIKI-CHAN, YOUR FACE IS RED
♡HOW CUTE
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A BOY HAS
WAVED AT ME
THERE'S SO MUCH I CAN'T GET USED TO

IT'S A REALLY WEIRD FEELING
CHOMP
MAMI
TOMATO
BROCCOLI
SHIMEJI
CHOMP
CHOMP
TOMATO
CHOMP
YUI-KUN, YOU HAVE TOO MANY THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE
WHY DO I HAVE TO EAT THEM
SHUT UP AND EAT
YOU LOOK CUTE
CHEW
CHEW

IT'S TATSUKI!!
SONEYOSHI -KUN
CHIKI CHIKI
WHAT
TSK
JUMP
TELL ME WHERE CHIKI -CHAN IS
COME ON
IS THAT HOW YOU ASK PEOPLE
IT'S SO RUDE, LIKE I'D TELL YOU
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHERE CHIKI-CHAN IS?
I REFUSE
WHY DAMN IT!! YOU BASTARD!!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M TELLING YOU
WHA?
SINCE SHE'S WITH NATSUKI RIGHT NOW

HUH?
I GUESS CHIKI-CHAN AND THAT GUY ARE DATING THEN
YOU ALWAYS GET ALONG SO WELL
GET AWAY
THAT'S RIGHT, SO DON'T BOTHER CHIKI
ALONE!?
TOGE-THER!?

WIGGLE
WIGGLE
? ? ?
DON'T COME BACK
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU, I'LL STOP BY AGAIN
WIGGLE
NOT YET..


YEAH
AT FIRST IT WAS BECAUSE MAMI ASKED ME TO JOIN WITH HER
YOU WERE IN THE BASKETBALL CLUB DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WOW CHIKI -CHAN,

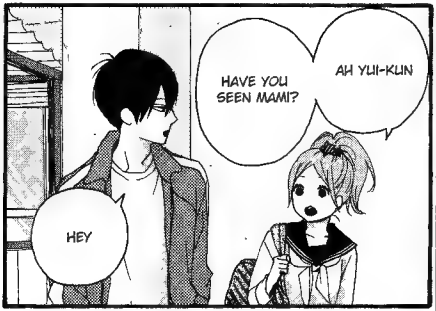
BUT THE BASKETBALL CLUB WAS FUN
HAHAHA THAT SOUNDS LIKE MAMI-CHAN
BUT MAMI QUIT THE CLUB AFTER ONLY 6 MONTHS
SHE KEPT INJURING HERSELF
HUH
ALONE LIKE THIS EVERYDAY
IT WOULD BE NICE TO TALK TOGETHER
YOU, CHIKI -CHAN
I'D LIKE TO
GO OUT WITH

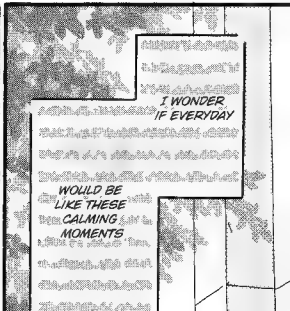
I THINK
THAT I WANT TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE I REALLY LIKE
WITH NATSUKI -KUN!?
AH UM...
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING
GO OUT!?

... SO
ALL THE MORE REASON WHY I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM
SINCE NATSUKI -KUN IS SO NICE.
GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE WHEN YOU DON'T LIKE THEM
ONLY CAUSES THEM PAIN
I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED MAMI
SORRY...
WELL, THAT'S TRUE
I"...EH?.

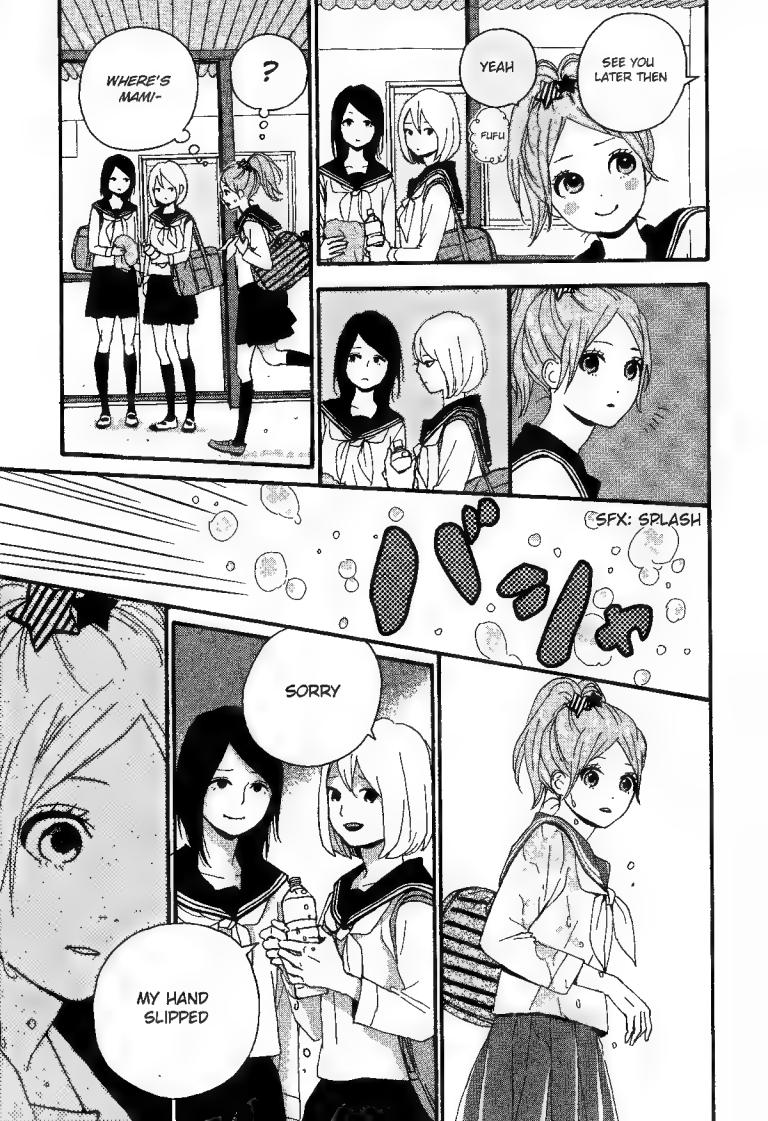
I'LL DO MY BEST SO THAT YOU LIKE ME
MORE THAN YU!
DONG
DANG
DONG
DING
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE CLASSROOM
YEAH
THERE'S OTHERS THAT SUIT YOU MORE
HOW IS IT THAT THIS PRINCE LIKES SOMEONE LIKE ME
COUGH
COUGH
A COLD?
YEAH I'M NOT SURE WHY BUT MY THROAT HURTS...
HERE TAKE THIS
?

IF I WENT OUT WITH NATSUKI-KUN
I'LL HAVE IT LATER ♪
WOW THANKS~
THROAT CANDY


HEY
HAVE YOU SEEN MAMI?
AH YUI-KUN


I WONDER IF EVERYDAY WOULD BE LIKE THESE CALMING MOMENTS

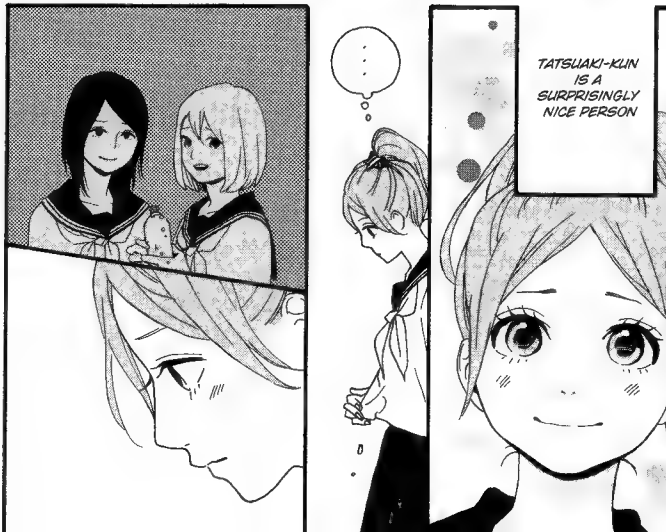
I'M NOT
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
HMMM
YEAH
ARE YOU AND MAMI GOING TO WATCH THE BASKETBALL CLUB TODAY?


WHERE'S MAMI-
?
YEAH
SEE YOU LATER THEN
FUFU
SFX: SPLASH
バシャ
SORRY
MY HAND SLIPPED

HEY
WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT
THAT GIRL IS TOO CLOSE TO NATSUKI-KUN AND YUI-KUN...
KAA?!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD
YOU THREW WATER BECAUSE OF THAT!
DON'T ACT LIKE SUCH A CHILD! APOLOGIZE!!

SFX: DASH
CHIKI -CHAN!?
I WONDER WHY
CHIKI-CHAN ARE YOU ALRIGHT!!?
KYAAA!!!
IT SUDDENLY
BECAME SO DIFFICULT
YOU SURPRISED ME
ARE YOU HURT!!?
NO
BUT YOUR UNIFORM IS SOAKED!!

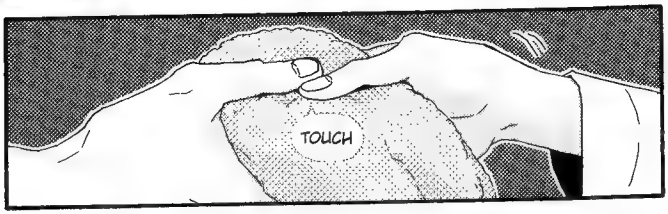
I HAVE A HANDKER-CHIEF THOUGH...
WAIT... A SECOND ...
STAY HERE!
HUH ...
TOWEL!
I'LL GO BUY ONE SO WAIT!!
YOUR VOICE IS LOUD


...
TATSUAKI-KUN IS A SURPRISINGLY NICE PERSON

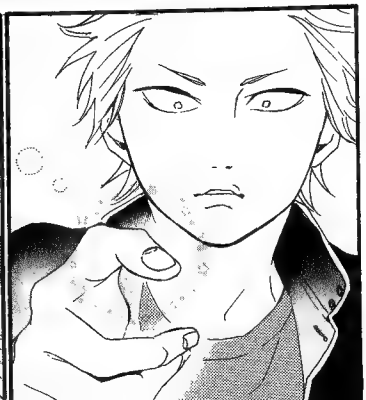
ALREADY!?
TOWEL
KUMA
CHIKI-CHAAN, I BOUGHT IT!!

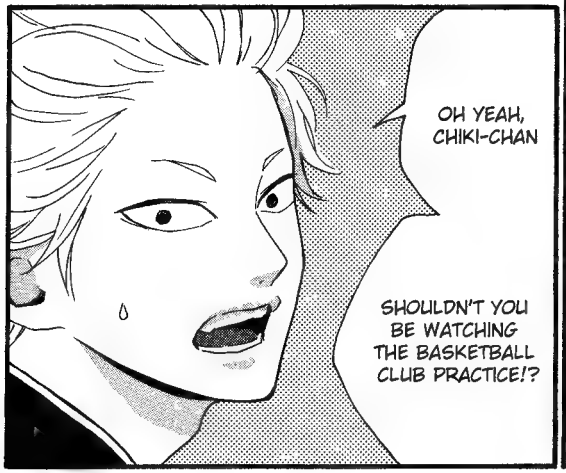
I WAS A BIT SCARED...
I SHOULD TELL MAMI THAT I WENT HOME ALREADY

WHEEZE
WHEEZE
THANK YOU...


TOUCH

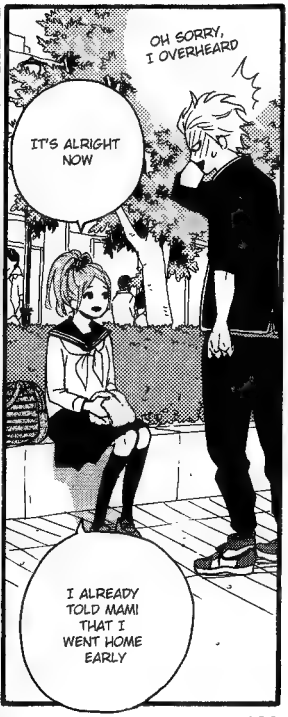
FINGERS AHHHHHHHH
WHAT!?
AAAAAAA AHHHHH HHHHHHH HHH




OH YEAH, CHIKI-CHAN
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WATCHING THE BASKETBALL CLUB PRACTICE!?

※
THEY ONLY TOUCHED
WE HELD HANDS
YOU ALRIGHT?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT STOP GOING TO WATCH THE BASKETBALL CLUB...
THE OTHER GIRLS ARE SCARY...

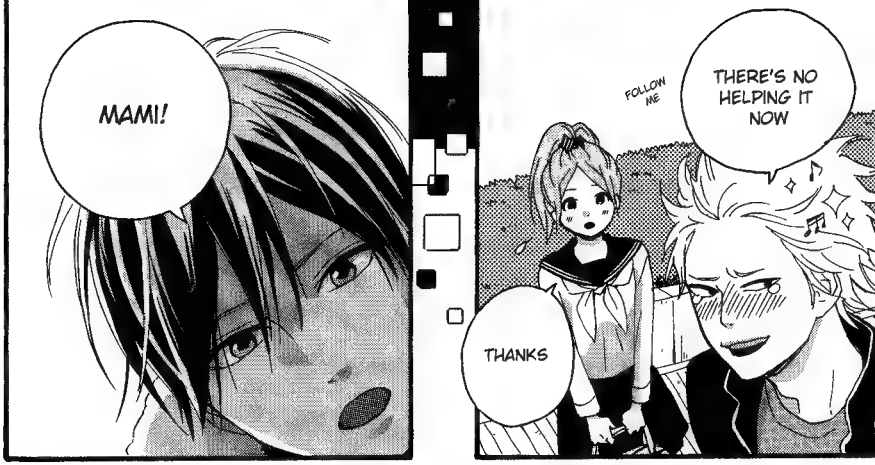

OH SORRY, I OVERHEARD
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW
I ALREADY TOLD MAM! THAT I WENT HOME EARLY

THAT'S NO GO!
YOU SHOULD GO!
HUH?

THAT NATSUKI GUY IS WAITING, RIGHT?
IF I WAS HIM
I'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE THE GIRL I LIKE WATCH ME PLAY
I'D BE SAD IF YOU WENT HOME EARLY, CHIKI-CHAN
IF I WAS HIM
NOT BEING ABLE TO WALK HOME TOGETHER ...
I'D CRY. CRY A LOT
AH
WHY DOES HE WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT NATSUKI -KUN...
PROBABLY
OH SHIT, I STARTED FANTA -SIZING

AH I ALREADY KNOW
GIRLFRIEND?
I HAD A HUNCH
BUT... YOU SHOULD ACT MORE OPENLY
HUH?
YOU'RE HIS GIRLFRIEND AFTER ALL
I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH NATSUKI -KUN
EH!?

FUFFU UUUU!!!
!?
FUU!
FUF
FUU♪
HUH... I'M SAYING
JUST NOW WHAT...
WHAT...
SHAKING
THAT I'M NOT DATING NATSUKI-KUN OR HAD A PROMISE TO WALK HOME WITH HIM EITHER
ALLOW ME TO WALK YOU HOME
UH IT'S JUST
IF THE GIRLS FROM BEFORE SHOW UP IT'D BE BAD, YOU KNOW?
...
THAT... THAT'S TRUE
THAT'S SCARY...
IS IT ALRIGHT THEN?


MAMI!
FOLLOW ME
THERE'S NO HELPING IT NOW
THANKS

WHERE DID CHIKI GO?
SHE WENT HOME
HA!? HOME!?
SHE SAID SHE'S WITH TATSUAKI -KUN
HA!?
I DON'T GET IT
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?

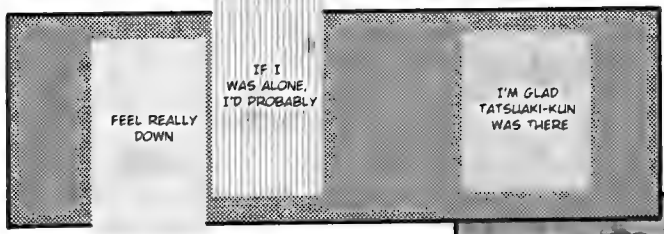
WHA!? TATSUAKI-KUN, YOU HAVE A TOY POODLE!?
WE HAVE ONE TOO
SERIOUSLY!?
IT'S A APRICOT COLOUR
OURS IS THE COLOUR OF SHIT
YEAH, BUT WHENEVER I COME HOME, OUR DOG BARKS SO MUCH
IT SEEMS TO HATE ME
IT'LL BE 7 YEARS SINCE WE GOT IT
IT STILL HASN'T GOTTEN USED TO ME
IT THINKS I'M A STRANGER
AHAHA
OH
THIS IS CHIKI-CHAN'S HOUSE RIGHT?
YEAH
I WONDER WHY HE KNOWS
SEE YOU
TOMORROW
...
YEAH

HERE
I BOUGHT THIS EARLIER BUT
AH
WAIT A SEC

HUH ....
TH.... THANKS...
THROAT CANDY
YOUR VOICE SOUNDED A BIT DIFFERENT
I THOUGHT YOUR THROAT HURT, OR SOMETHING

UMM
NOTICING SOMETHING LIKE THAT
WHAT AN INTERESTING PERSON
CAN WE WALK HOME TOGETHER AGAIN?
BLUSH

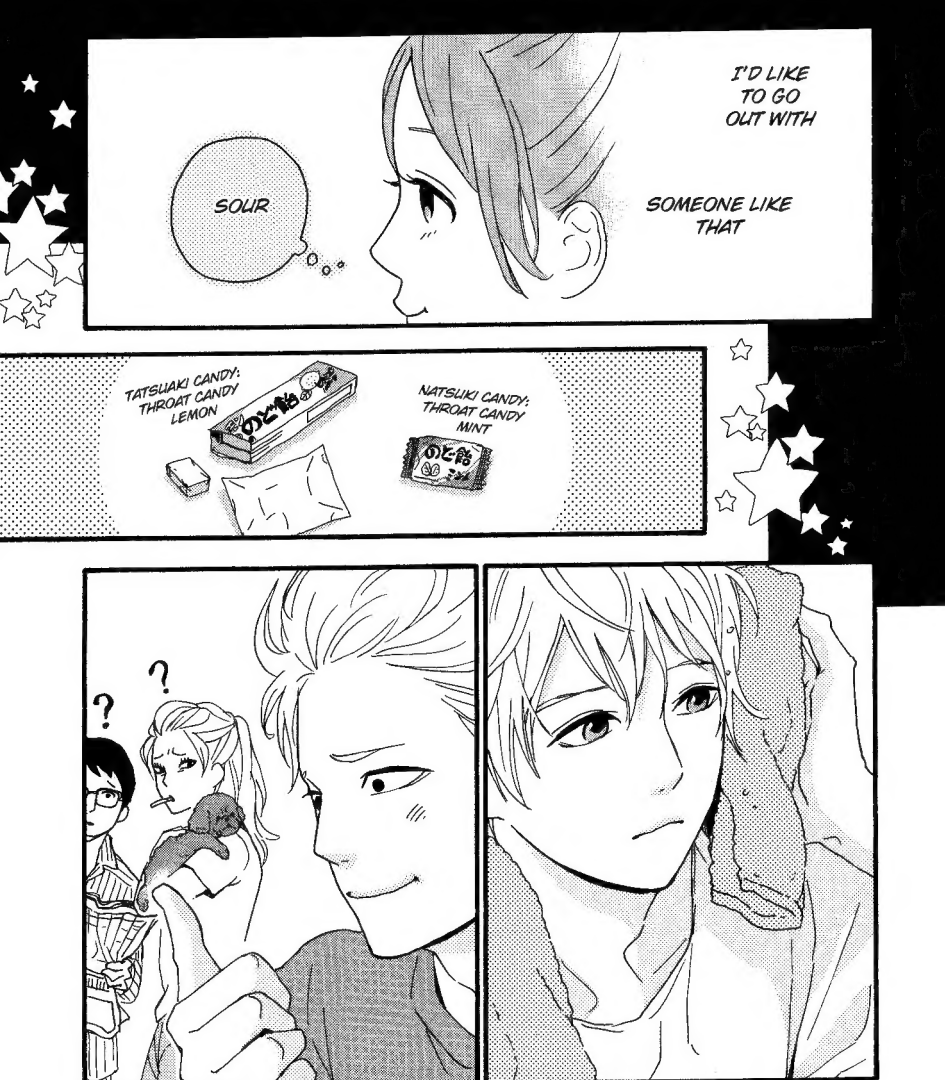
OF COURSE MAMI
DASH
WITH MAMI -CHAN TOO!!


FEEL REALLY DOWN
IF I WAS ALONE, I'D PROBABLY
I'M GLAD TATSUAKI-KUN WAS THERE

CHIKI -CHAAN
WHAT HAPPENED!?
WHY DID YOU GO HOME EARLY!?

WHY WERE YOU WITH TATSUAKI?
HE JUST WALKED ME HOME
IS THAT REALLY ALL?
YEAH
HEY CHIKI
YES?
WAS IT BECAUSE MAMI ATE YOUR SUNNYSIDE UP EYES THIS MORNING!?
NO I'M NOT PARTICULARLY ANGRY
... HA?
IF YOU HURT NATSUKI
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU

I WON'T
THEN HURRY UP AND GO OUT WITH HIM
DON'T START A FIGHT
JUST GO HOME, YUI-KUN
"I'LL DO MY BEST SO THAT YOU LIKE ME"
"MORE THAN YUI"
I WONDER
IF I CAN FIND SOMEONE I LIKE
SOMEONE I REALLY REALLY LOVE



THEN THIS TIME,

I'D LIKE TO CONFESS PROPERLY

《 END 》

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ACTION COMICS

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Credits

RAWS: TAKRAI
TRANSLATOR: CHOUZEN
CLEANER: TSUBAKI
PROOFREADER: TSUBAKI
TYPESETTER: TSUBAKI
QC'ER: TSUBAKI

WE NEED JAPANESE TRANSLATORS, CLEANERS AND TYPESETTERS!

Woah...
SO MANY PRETTY MANGA...
Waa...
THIS IS WHERE THE SUMMER RAIN TEAM DO THEIR MAGIC
AND SCANLATE ALL YOUR FAVORITE SHOUJO MANGA!
Welcome to Summer Rain~!
WHAT?! THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YEAH, IT'S NOT LIKE WE GET PAID TO TRANSLATE MANGA FOR YOU.
AH, BUT WAIT, IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CUTE SHOUJO MANGA, YOU HAVE TO HELP US SOMEHOW.
OKAY?
Summer Rain

Sign me up!
IN FACT, MOST OF THIS MANGA WORK REQUIRES PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO USE PHOTOSHOP!
Even if you don't know how to use Photoshop, you can help by donating as well!
YEAH. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO TO OUR WEBSITE.
BUT YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW JAPANESE TO HELP US.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THEY ACTUALLY DEDICATE THEIR FREE TIME TO BRING MANGA JUST FOR ME!
I feel so bad for always asking them for faster updates!

Visit us at
www.summer-rain.info/join-us